



GROWTH IN EL SALVADOR

During our February mission trip to El Salvador, our team of volunteer Speech Language Pathologists conducted their first training to Salvadorian speech therapists from our partner organization, ISRI. The training focused on specific speech therapy techniques for patients born with cleft lip/palate. This conference was so successful that over 30 therapists from all over the country were in attendance. These 30 therapists have now returned to their centers to train their peers and will continue contact with our volunteers, to strengthen their knowledge through telehealth.

While in El Salvador, Austin Smiles Team toured our new office and storage units located inside Cristo Redentor's Community Clinic. We now have access to an office space, a room for medical evaluations, and a storage unit. Our new facilities share space with the community dental clinic and a wide range of medical specialists. We are grateful and fortunate for the support of our partners in El Salvador such as Club Rotario Guscatlan, the Hospital Militar, ISRI, and Cristo Redentor's Community Clinic. These partners are committed to working together in advancing our mission of improving the health and smiles of Salvadorian children, and the quality of life for each of their families.

-Austin Smiles Team



Our 2019 El Salvador Mission was made possible by lots of supporters like you!

Special thanks to:

Cuddles for Clefts for providing the cutest stuffed animals for our patients

Hospital Militar and the Military for providing us safety and space to operate

Club Rotario Cuscatlan for running the behind the scenes show

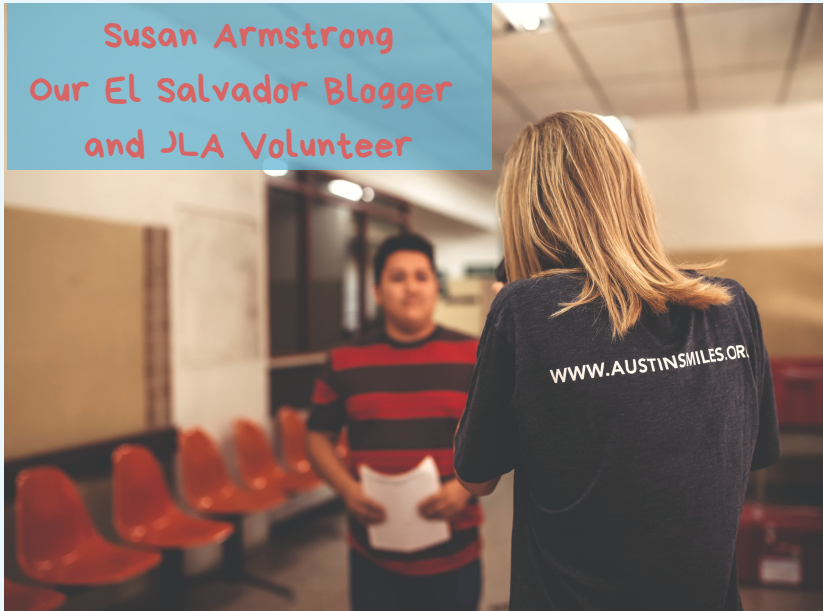
and to our team of 32
amazing volunteers
that came together to
change lives!



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"Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy" - Unknown

Susan Armstrong
Our El Salvador Blogger
and JLA Volunteer



Special Thanks to:

- Alisa Cohen
- Amber Houmes
- Amy King
- Brandy Wuensch
- Kelly Canavan
- Pam Curtis
- Susan Armstrong

— THE —
**JUNIOR
LEAGUE
OF AUSTIN**



"To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with." - Mark Twain

I was fortunate to join the El Salvador team as one of three non-medical volunteers of the Austin Junior League (JLA). I had heard about the placement years ago, pinning it as my “reach” placement because so many members wanted to go. Since this was my last year as an active member after 14 years, I was ecstatic when I got it. I planned my family’s calendar around it seven months prior to the trip.

To say my Austin Smiles experience was amazing is an understatement. I am still in awe I got to watch the operations themselves while the surgeons motioned me up to the operating table to see what they were doing. I witnessed happy, trusting children and parents, so grateful for the chance to start a new chapter after the surgery. I learned a new appreciation for the medical profession and this team in particular... their stamina to operate on and care for so many patients along with their caring hearts to volunteer hard-earned vacation time and expertise to help these children in a different country. Most importantly of all, I learned a new understanding of the issues behind cleft lip and palate and how much Austin Smiles' help is needed in these impoverished countries.

I may not be a surgeon, but I left the trip knowing my contribution was valuable. I have a pretty good guess this is why so many people have asked me about my trip – I helped change lives.

- Susan Armstrong, Junior League Volunteer



CREATING SMILES, IMPROVING LIVES

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Before



GENEROSITY

We are so excited to share that Austin Smiles was a recipient of the Altrua HealthShare award in the amount of \$45,000. This generous donation will help us cover the cost of our 2020 mission trip to El Salvador, and to help improve the health of children born with cleft lip/palate. We are honored and grateful for this new partnership!

HealthShare
Altrua

GET INVOLVED

We are looking forward to lots of growth and new partnerships in 2019. We ask that you consider getting involved with us this year, either through donations or volunteering.

Please email info@austinsmiles.org to request information on volunteer opportunities or to share your feedback.

We are working on expanding our reach and connections this year. Join us in changing the lives of children around the world!

After



In 2019

WE HAVE
PERFORMED 30
OPERATIONS

\$6,600 RAISED
THROUGH
AMPLIFY AUSTIN

HOSTED OUR FIRST
TRAINING TO
SPEECH THERAPISTS
IN EL SALVADOR



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Dr. Mahlon Kerr
El Salvador

A 45 MINUTE SURGERY
AND A DONATION AS
SMALL AS \$250 CAN
CHANGE A CHILD'S
SMILE FOREVER



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and Instagram and stay connected!**



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DONATE NOW!

We know you have many choices when it comes to making charitable contributions. We hope that reading our newsletter will show you the power of donations here at Austin Smiles. Every dollar counts towards life change. Please consider mailing in your donation or clicking the donate button on our website www.austinsmiles.org to securely give.

Thank you!

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WHO WE ARE

Austin Smiles - The Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide sustainable surgical care to children born with cleft lip and cleft palate both in Central Texas and Latin America

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